IN THE CLAIMS

CLAIM LISTING:

1. (currently amended) A lace lingerie article for holding and supporting ~~allowing the hold and support of~~ a part of the female body, comprising ~~characterized in that the~~ a lace material; and

at least one reinforcing element;

wherein said lace material is produced from an elastic material that ~~which~~ is simultaneously thermoformable, weldable and capable of ~~the~~ bonding said ~~of~~ at least one reinforcing element, said lace material being capable of undergoing, without damage ~~to the lace thread~~, a permanent deformation by thermal forming during a molding operation for the production of lingerie articles in all the conventional sizes, and preserving, after deformation, a mechanical stability and an elasticity ~~such that said articles maintain their capacity for supporting and holding that part of the body which they cover~~.

2. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 1, wherein ~~as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that~~ said lace material is ~~composed of~~ a mixture of polyamide and of elasthane.

3. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 2, wherein ~~as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that~~ said lace

material is ~~composed of~~ 60 to 80% polyamide and ~~of~~ 20 to 40% elasthane.

4. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 3, wherein ~~as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that~~ said lace material is ~~composed of~~ 76% polyamide and ~~of~~ 24% elasthane.

5. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 2, wherein said ~~as claimed in one of claims 2 to 4, characterized in that the~~ polyamide is of the 6.6 type.

6. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 1, further comprising an adhesive material, wherein said ~~as claimed in anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ adhesive material is capable of ~~used for the~~ bonding of said at least one ~~the~~ reinforcing element ~~or reinforcing elements~~ and is elastic and thermoactivatable at a temperature such that it can subsequently undergo thermal forming, while ~~at the same time preserving the quality of the bond and~~ maintaining after deformation, a mechanical stability and an elasticity ~~which are compatible with supporting and holding that part of the body which said article covers~~.

7. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 6, wherein said ~~as claimed in the preceding claim characterized in that the~~ adhesive

material is a polyurethane adhesive that ~~which~~ is meltable at a temperature below the thermal forming temperature and ~~which~~ remains active during ~~said~~ thermal forming.

8. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 7, wherein said ~~as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that the~~ polyurethane adhesive is meltable from 180°C.

9. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 1, wherein said at least one ~~as claimed in anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ reinforcing element ~~or reinforcing elements~~ consists of a material capable of undergoing the deformation brought about by thermal forming, while at the same time maintaining, after deformation, a mechanical stability and an elasticity which are compatible with supporting and holding that part of the body which it covers.

10. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 9, wherein ~~as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that~~ said at least one reinforcing element ~~material~~ is an elastic jersey material allowing a substantially identical elongation longitudinally and transversely.

11. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 10, wherein ~~as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that~~ said elastic

jersey material is ~~consists of~~ 85% to 95% polyamide and ~~of~~ 5% to 15% elasthane.

12. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 11, wherein ~~as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that~~ said elastic jersey material is ~~consists of~~ 89% polyamide and ~~of~~ 11% elasthane.

13. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 11, wherein said ~~as claimed in one of claims 11 and 12, characterized in that the~~ polyamide is of the 6.6 type.

14. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 9, wherein said at least one ~~as claimed in one of claims 9 to 13, characterized in that the~~ reinforcing element is ~~elements are~~ provided in a material ~~of~~ that ~~which~~ has ~~the~~ responsiveness, the force exerted in order to obtain an elongation of 40%, is 1.1 N ± 0.5 N longitudinally and transversely.

15. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 1, wherein said lace material ~~as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it~~ is manufactured from a lace strip having a pair of reinforced ~~preformed for the purpose of the article for which it is intended, the~~ edges ~~of said lace strip being reinforced in order to avoid the need for the fitting of elastic or elastics to said article,~~ and the lace lingerie

article is ~~the latter being~~ produced by cutting out at least one piece from one of said pair of ~~the~~ reinforced edges, without reaching the other of said pair of reinforced edges ~~edge~~, and by the welding of said at least one piece ~~or said pieces~~ and by the bonding of said at least one reinforcing element.

16. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 15, wherein ~~as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that~~ the welding is ultrasonic.

17. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article according to claim 15, wherein said ~~A brassiere as claimed in anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that it is manufactured from a~~ lace strip is preformed so ~~in such a way~~ that its responsiveness~~, the force exerted in order to obtain an elongation of 40%,~~ is 3.7 N ± 1.2 N in a ~~the~~ direction of length in a ~~the~~ middle of said lace ~~the~~ strip, 5.7 N ± 1.7 N in a ~~the~~ direction of length at said pair of ~~the~~ reinforced edges and 10.5 N ± 3.2 N in a ~~the~~ direction of width of said lace ~~the~~ strip.

18. (currently amended) The brassiere according to claim 17, wherein said ~~as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that the~~ lace strip has a width of approximately 30 cm.

19. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article ~~brassiere as~~ according to claim 17, further comprising a pair of cups that ~~claimed in one of the~~

~~claims 17 and 18, characterized in that the cups~~ are reinforced by ~~means of~~ a bonded lining.

20. (currently amended) The lace lingerie article ~~brassiere~~ according to claim 17, wherein said pair of ~~as claimed in one of claims 17 to 19, characterized in that the~~ cups has ~~consist of~~ two identical pieces with ~~of~~ a shape such that said ~~the~~ reinforced edges mark~~ing~~ a ~~the~~ bottom of said cups ~~each cup~~ wherein said cups are arranged in a herringbone pattern after welding of one of said pair of cups to the other of said pair of cups.

21. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing ~~the manufacture of~~ a brassiere comprising ~~satisfying the characteristics of claim 17 to 20, characterized in that it comprises the following steps~~:

- preforming~~, for brassieres, of~~ a lace strip of a width of approximately 30 cm;
- cutting out of pieces from said lace strip ~~to be assembled in order~~ to form ~~said~~ brassiere~~s~~ cups;
- welding of said pieces;
- coating portions of said pieces ~~the reinforcing material~~ with spots of nonthermoactivatable polyurethane adhesive;
- bonding of a film of thermoactivatable adhesive material to said portions ~~material~~;
- cutting out ~~of~~ reinforcing elements;

- connecting ~~connection of~~ said reinforcing elements to said pieces ~~of the lace~~ by the thermoactivation of said ~~the~~ adhesive material;
- thermal forming of said ~~the~~ brassiere cups at a temperature of between 190°C and 200°C.

22. (currently amended) The lace article according to claim 1, wherein said article is a panty, a ~~Panties,~~ briefs or a thong ~~as claimed in anyone of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that they are manufactured from a lace strip preformed in such a way that its responsiveness is 3 N ± 1 N in the direction of length in the middle of the strip, 4 N ± 1.2 N in the direction of length at the reinforced edges and 18.5 N ± 5.5 N in the direction of width~~.

23. (currently amended) The lace article according to claim 22, wherein said ~~panties, briefs or thong as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that the~~ lace strip has a width of approximately 34 cm.

24. (currently amended) The lace article according to claim 23, ~~panties, briefs or thong as claimed in one of claims 22 and 23~~, further comprising ~~characterized in that the~~ welded parts that are reinforced by ~~means of~~ a bonded lining.

25. (currently amended) A method for the manufacture of lace panties, briefs or ~~a~~ thong, comprising ~~satisfying the characteristics of claims 21 to 24, characterized by the following steps~~:

- preforming~~, for panties, briefs or thongs, of~~ a lace strip of a width of approximately 34 cm;
- cutting out of at least one piece from said lace strip for forming said ~~the~~ panties, briefs or thong;
- welding of said at least one piece ~~or pieces~~;
- coating of a portion of said at least one piece ~~the reinforcing material~~ with spots of non-thermoactivatable polyurethane adhesive;
- bonding of a film of thermoactivatable adhesive material to said at least one piece ~~material~~;
- cutting out of reinforcing elements;
- connection of said reinforcing elements to the lace by the thermoactivation of the adhesive material.

26. (new) The method for manufacture of lace panties, briefs or a thong, according to claim 25, wherein said portion of said at least one piece is a pair of reinforced edges.

27. (new) The method of manufacture of lace panties, briefs or thong, according to claim 25, wherein said lace strip is preformed in such a way that its responsiveness is 3 N $\pm$ 1 N in a direction of length in a middle of said lace strip and 4 N $\pm$ 1.2 N in a direction of length at said pair of reinforced edges and 18.5 N $\pm$ 5.5 N in a direction of width.

28. (new) The method of manufacture of lace panties, briefs or thong, according to claim 25, wherein said lace strip has a width of approximately 34 cm.

29. (new) The method of manufacture of lace panties, briefs or thong, according to claim 25, wherein said at least one piece is reinforced by a bonded lining.

30. (new) The lace article according to claim 25, brassiere.

31. (new) The lace article according to claim 1, wherein said lace article is selected from the group consisting of a panty, a brief, and a thong.

32. (new) The lace article according to claim 22, wherein said article is manufactured from a lace strip preformed in such a way that its responsiveness is 3 N $\pm$ 1 N in a direction of length in a middle of said strip, 4 N $\pm$ 1.2 N in a direction of length at said reinforced edges and 18.5 N $\pm$ 5.5 N in a direction of width.